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THE LAY OF THRYM, OR THE FETCHING OF THOR'S HAMMER.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ELDER EDDA.

1. Wroth was Wing-Thor ¹
 When he awoke,
 And his hammer
 Missed;
 He shook his beard
 And shaggy head,
 Earth's son ² began
 To grope about.
2. And first of all
 This word he spoke:
 Hear now, Loki,
 What I say,
 Which no one knows
 Nowhere on Earth,
 Nor in heaven above :
 The god's hammer is gone!
3. Went they to Freyja's
 Fair abode then,
 And first of all
 This word he spoke:
 Wilt loan me, Freyja,
 Thy feather-coat,
 That I may find
 My hammer again?

Freyja said:

4. That would I give thee
 Of gold though it were,
 To thee would I give it
 Though 't were of silver.
5. Flew then Loki,
 The feather-coat whizzed,
 Out and beyond
 The Asas world,
 To and within
 The Giant-world.
 On a mound sat Thrym,
 The Thurses' lord,
 For his greyhounds

¹ Old Norse *Ving-bór*, one of Thor's names.

² Thor was the son of *Odin* and *Jörð*, 'Earth.'

Gold bands braiding,
And smoothing the manes
Of his steeds.

Thrym said:

6. How is it with the Asas?
How is it with the elves?
Why journey alone
To Giant-home?
'T is ill with the Asas,
'T is ill with the elves.
Hast thou Hlorrida's ¹
Hammer hidden?

Thrym said:

7. I have Hlorrida's
Hammer hidden
Eight miles deep
The earth beneath.
No man shall bring
It back again,
Unless he fetch me
Freyja to wife!
8. Flew then Loki,
The feather-coat whizzed,
Out and beyond
The Giant-world,
To and within
The Asas world.
There met he Thor
In the middle court,
And first of all
This word he spoke:
9. Hast thou profit
As thou hast had pains?
Say while aloft
The long tidings
Often the sitter
His tale forgets,
And he who reclines
Will speak falsehood.

Loki said:

10. I have had profit
As I have pains,
Thrym has thy hammer,
The Thurses' lord.

¹ Thor.

No man may bring
It back again
Unless he fetch him
Freyja to wife.

11. Went they to Freyja's
Fair abode then,
And first of all
This word he spoke:
Bind thee, Freyja,
In bridal linen,
We two shall journey
To Giant-home.
12. Wroth was Freyja,
And raged she,
All the Asas hall
Under them shook,
Burst the mighty
Brising necklace:
Me shalt thou know
Man-crazy indeed
When I journey with you
To Giant-home!
13. Soon were the gods all
Gathered in council
And the goddesses
All in converse,
And thereon parleyed
The powerful gods,
How to get Hlorrida's
Hammer back.
14. Then quoth Heimdall
Whitest of gods,
Wise of the future
As ¹ Wane -gods other:
Bind we Thor in
Bridal linen,
Let him bear the
Brising necklace.
15. Hang down from his waist
The dangling keys,
And female dress let
Fall round his knees.

¹ Old Norse *Vánir*, another race of gods, once hostile but later by friendly compact also residents of *Asgard*.

We'll place on his bosom
Precious stones,
And a handsome top-knot
Tie o'er his head.

16. Then up spake
Great Thor the mighty:
· · · · ·
· · · · ·¹
Well might the gods
Womanish call me
If I let me bind
In bridal linen!

17. Then quoth Loki,
Laufey's son:
Be silent, Thor,
With such-like words,
The Giants will soon
Reside in Asgard
Lest thou fetch home
Thy hammer again.

18. So Thor was bound
In bridal linen
And given to bear
The Brising necklace
· · · · ·
They hung from his waist
The dangling keys
And female dress let
Fall round his knees.
They placed on his bosom
Precious stones,
And a handsome top-knot
Tied o'er his head.

19. Then quoth Loki,
Laufey's son:
I will be
Thy handmaid,
We two shall journey
To Giant-home!

20. Home then the goats
Were hurried at once,
And hitched to the shafts,
For hasten they must.

¹ A lacuna here in the original.

The mountains crashed,
 The earth was a-flame,¹
 As Odin's son
 Drove to Giant-home.

21. Then quoth Thrym,
 The Thurses' lord:
 Stand up, giants,
 And strew the benches.
 Now they fetch me
 Freyja to wife,
 The daughter of Njord
 Of Noatun.

22. There graze in the court-yard
 Gold-horned kine,
 Oxen jet-black
 To the giant's delight.
 Many have I jewels,
 Many have I gems,
 Freyja alone
 I lack!

23. Came there early
 Evening time,
 When beer for the giants
 Was brought forward.
 An ox Thor devoured
 And eight salmon,
 And all the dainties
 Intended for the women;
 The husband of Sif ² drank
 Three sals of mead.

24. Then said Thrym,
 The Thurses' Lord:
 Where saw'st thou a bride
 Bite more greedily?
 I never saw a bride
 Bite more broadly,
 Nor a maiden drink
 Mead more heartily.

25. There sat near by
 The handmaid cunning,
 Who readily found
 A fitting answer:

¹ A strange inconsistency of the poet, since Thor is not now in possession of his hammer, and therefore cannot wield the thunderbolt or hurl the flash of lightning.

² *Sif* is in Norse mythology the wife of Thor.

Freyja could not eat
For nights all eight;
— So longed she to be
In the land of giants.

26. Thrym stooped 'neath the veil
To steal a kiss,
But started back
The breadth of the hall!
Why are so fierce
Freyja's eyes?
Methinks that fire
Flashes from them.

27. Then sat near by
The handmaid cunning,
Who readily found
A fitting answer:
Naught slept Freyja
For nights all eight,
So longed she to be
In the land of the giants.

28. In came the joyless
Giant's sister
And boldly begged
A bridal fee:
Give from thy hands
The gleaming rings,
If thou wouldst gain
My grace and favor
[All my favor
And all my love.] ¹

29. Then quoth Thrym,
The Thurses' lord:
Bring in the hammer
The bride to consecrate.
Lay Mjølñir ² in
The maiden's lap,
In the name of War,³
Now wed us two.

30. Laughed then Hlorrida's
Heart in his bosom,
When the hardy of spirit
His hammer saw.

¹ Lines evidently interpolated.

² Mjølñir, the crusher, Thor's hammer.

³ Old Norse Vár, goddess of marriage.

Thrym killed he first,
The Thurses' lord,
The giant's kin
Then crushed he all.

31. He slew the aged
Sister of the giant,
She who bridal fee
Had boldly begged.
A hammer-shock
Was her shilling fee,
A hammer-stroke
For heaps of rings.

Thus Odin's son got his hammer back.

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